

Check out our newest Early Learning Digest for July

From: Communications Manager (whall@elcpinellas.org)

To: andibell601@aol.com

Date: Monday, June 30, 2025 at 01:58 PM EDT

Pinellas County

July 2025

EARLY LEARNING DIGEST



School Readiness (SR) copayments changes

Starting July 1, 2025, we will be changing our School Readiness (SR) copayments for families. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Contracts & Compliance

WELCOME TO OUR 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR!

Thank you to everyone who attended the School Readiness Contract Review sessions that were conducted in June. We hope you found the information about the changes for this program year helpful. For those of you who missed the review, there is a new opportunity for programs to take advantage of a paid Professional Development Day for the program staff. Providers can list a 13th paid day in their Holiday Schedule, but it **MUST** be for **TRAINING**. If you have questions, let us know at contracts@elcpinellas.org.

VPK CONTRACT/PROGRAM REVIEW

We will be conducting a virtual review of the VPK Contract and Program Designation calculations and their requirements **on Tuesday, July 29th, from 2:00-4:00 PM** via TEAMS. If you are interested in participating in this session, please send your name, email address, and program name to our contract inbox at contracts@elcpinellas.org.

We will send an invitation to the session with the meeting link and access code. We will review any changes to VPK rules for this program year and the requirements for Providers who receive an **"INCOMPLETE"** designation and those providers who may be placed on **PROBATION**.

SUMMER VPK

For those of you matching the school district schedule, the **PM 3 testing window** for summer VPK is quickly approaching. Remember, the PM 3 testing window is the last 10 instructional days of your VPK program. ALL children must be tested or be exempt from testing. Review the allowable options [here](#). Remember, all tests are date and time-stamped, and children must be tested during Instructional Hours. If you have questions or need help, please get in touch with us at contracts@elcpinellas.org.

Contract Questions?

You are always welcome to contact your contract specialist directly, but if you have a general question and wish to send it to our contracts@elcpinellas.org inbox, we'll be happy to answer your questions. Your Contract Specialists spend a lot of time in the field, so if you have a pressing issue, try our email address.

We are looking forward to working with everyone in the coming program year.
We hope you all have a terrific program year!

Professional Learning Institute

The ELC is pleased to offer our first Professional Learning Day on **Friday, August 8th, 2025**. There will be a variety of 2-hour training sessions throughout the day for both Infant-Toddler and Pre-K teachers. This training day can count as your 13th paid day on the SR contract.

The following sessions will be offered virtually via Zoom:

- **Session 1:** 8 -10am
- **Session 2:** 10am-12pm
- **Session 3:** 12-2pm
- **Session 4:** 2-4pm

There will be limited spaces for each training session. If your teachers are interested, please have them use the following link to pre-register below
<https://professional-learning-day-pre-registration.eventbrite.com/>

When all training sessions have been finalized, the pre-registered teachers will receive an email with the registration links for each training offered.

Questions about registration?

Contact Sharon Dennany at sdennany@elcpinellas.org or (727) 400-4431.

Quality Services: Literacy

The Literacy Department is recruiting for Nemours BrightStart for the 25- 26 school year. Nemours is a research-based early intervention program that has been proven to increase students' literacy scores. Participation includes training and materials!

If you participate in the School Readiness Program Assessment and are interested in Nemours or to receive more information, please contact dmerrett@elcpinellas.org.

Quality Services: Classy Conversations

Join us for **CLASSy Conversations**, our exciting series on the last Tuesday of each month. These live, virtual sessions foster familiarity with CLASS for new staff and ensure seasoned members stay sharp to avoid CLASS drift [LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Welcome to this month's edition of "**CLASSy Accreditation Corner.**" We are excited to share some simple yet effective strategies for enhancing classroom quality, boosting CLASS scores, and positively impacting child outcomes.

[CLICK HERE FOR JULY'S EDITION](#)

Early Intervention Services Provider Spotlight



Teachers at Sunshine Preschool practice Baby Shark Yoga. Did you know that yoga has significant physical and cognitive benefits for children? Physically, yoga helps children develop gross motor skills and enhances their body awareness and coordination. Cognitively, it can improve self-regulation, mindfulness, and concentration and reduce stress and anxiety.



Conscious Discipline Provider Spotlight

On June 7th, Early Intervention Services hosted our 3rd and final in-person training for the 2024-2025 school year. **Polly Beebe** shared how to build connections and strong relationships using Conscious Discipline strategies. We want to thank everyone who attended and spent their Saturday with us, and also, a very special thank you to **Calvary Kids Care** for allowing us to use their space!

FREE E-Course Training Opportunity

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County (ELCP)'s Early Intervention Dept. is offering the Conscious Discipline E-Course "Powers of Resilience" to all individuals working at School-Readiness or VPK contracted programs. This self-paced course contains approximately 10 hours of training videos by Dr. Becky Bailey and a workbook to accompany each of the nine sessions.

Due to limited space, those who sign up to take the course will have 30 days from the date of registration to complete and submit their certificate of completion to mcalifano@elcpinellas.org. If the course is not completed within the 30-day time frame, the individual will be removed from the course to make room for the next participant.

To register, please submit the following to MaryGrace at mcalifano@elcpinellas.org:

- First and last name
- School-Readiness contracted or VPK contracted program you are employed at
- Email address (where you will receive the e-course invitation and correspondences)

Any questions can be directed to MaryGrace at mcalifano@elcpinellas.org

Help Me Grow Pinellas (HMGP) Highlights



Summer is in full swing! Here are some Safety tips for summer activities.

- **Sunscreen:** Apply sunscreen liberally to protect skin from the sun's rays.
- **Hydration:** Encourage children to drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- **Supervision:** Provide close supervision during water play and other outdoor activities.

Curious about your child's developmental milestones? We're here to help!

With Help Me Grow Pinellas, you can access a FREE, easy-to-use milestone checklist for children ages 2 months to 5 years which is a great way to track your child's growth and celebrate their progress.

Whether you're cheering on new achievements or looking for extra support, we've got the tools, resources, and guidance to help your child thrive - every step of the way.

Parents can contact the HMGP Care Specialist at (727) 454-4547 for more information on screening events and available resources or go to <https://elcpinellas.org/helpmegrow/> to complete a screening virtually.

ASQ UPDATE:

Please check the Provider Portal frequently to see if you have any screenings due.

Please be aware of the required DUE DATE column. Completing the Developmental Screenings before the due date is necessary to avoid progressive enforcement due to noncompliance.

When a screening request is due within 15 days of the due date, it goes into a **YELLOW status**. Screening requests are considered past due **on the due date** and go into **RED status**. Once past due, providers will be sent to enforcement to ensure ASQ completion.

Call Anjanette at (727) 400-4452 with ASQ questions or for assistance with ASQs.

Florida's Chancellor for Early Learning Visit

We were honored to welcome Florida's Chancellor for Early Learning, Cari Miller, to Pinellas County in June! During Chancellor Miller's visit, she took time to tour two early learning providers —Kidz World Preschool and Gingerbread Preschool Azalea.

It was an inspiring day filled with meaningful conversations, classroom joy, and a shared vision for giving every child the best start possible. Your dedication to high-quality early education and support for our providers, educators, and families means so much.



Trainings are available for Providers.
Select here to find a listing of new trainings.



Sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
and the State of Florida, Division of Early Learning.

